

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 9, 2003

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Rebecca LaBrunerie, Kay Tarapolsi (left at 8:30 p.m.), Jill Schmidt, Heidi Houghton, Phil Teller, Latha Sambamurti; Youth advocate Nicole Rollofson

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Una McAlinden, Kate Cochran, Joscelyn Doleac

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary; Joel Pfundt, Public Works Transportation

AUDIENCE PRESENT: Pamela Rembold, Doe Stahr

.

AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Rebecca LaBrunerie called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

Notations: Pamela Rembolt, audience, was introduced as the chairperson for the City of Sammamish's newly-formed Arts Commission.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of September 11, 2003 as submitted by:
Commissioner Schmidt

Second by: Commissioner Houghton

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Sculptor artist Doe Stahr presented her ideas for developing art along the East Lake Sammamish trail. She noted there is a \$10,000 Arts and Trails grant in Washington State that could help with funding. A governmental body must apply for the federal grant. A letter of intent would be needed by December 1, should RAC be interested in applying.

Stahr proposed a connecting theme in the trail by looking at the different experiences of those using the trail. Users could experience something incrementally that would appeal to different velocities, e.g., landmarks along the way to reflect the character of the local community. Stahr showed sample sketches of her ideas:

- Gates between the cities: a threshold, a transition
- Mile/kilometer markers for orienteering
- Estuary guide
- Totem figures
- Bamboo art fence
- Geese in flight
- Canoe silhouette in the water (creating photo opportunities)
- Concrete sand sculpture
- Hitching posts
- Paintings with art glass
- Kinetic art
- City center benches (using different treatments)
- Critters: footprints in ceramic tile
- Things to touch
- Historic place names
- Gravel art
- Labyrinth

Schmidt will be in contact with other cities to ask for their interest/participation. Stahr offered to conduct workshops with volunteers and students who would do what they want for their area.

Stahr noted that a quarter of the \$10,000 grant must be spent on the artist.

Commissioners comments:

- Commissioners supported Stahr's idea, adding it would lend to connection with other cities.
- Schmidt has sent a letter to the Parks Director to ask him about the idea.
- Schmidt volunteered to work with Sammamish Art Commission and other cities.
- The \$10,000 can be used as a start; fundraisers would follow.
- Success and timing would depend on how much support is received from other cities, as well as the future of the trail.

- A 3-5 year plan would be anticipated for the artwork.
- Other Redmond commissioners could be involved.

Stahr presented the idea to Barbara Luecke, the state administrator for the percent for art for the trail, who has given the concept to the trail planner. Luecke pointed out that the artwork could be created and started elsewhere while the trail was under construction.

Motion to draft a letter of intent to apply for the Arts and Trails grant, to approve the letter at the November RAC meeting, and to submit it by December 1 by:

Commissioner Schmidt

Second by: Commissioner Houghton

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

LaBrunerie will work with Schmidt on drafting the letter.

Stahr stated that the matching funds are on a one-to-one ratio. She noted the City tourism grant money is \$5,000, and could be used as half of the amount needed to match.

V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS

A. Chair/Vice Chair

1. Mission Statement Discussion

Skillingstead referenced the e-mail from Commissioner Cochran containing a draft of the RAC goals. Houghton reported that certain language contained in the City ordinance was missing from the proposed goal list, i.e., giving recommendations to Mayor/City Council and representing the community. Therefore, she added another goal to read, "Voice the views of the community to Mayor, City Council, and all cultural endeavors."

Commissioners made the following edits to the numbered list of goals:

- #1: change "in the City" to "for the people" of Redmond
- #2: delete "locally based"
- #3: leave "Redmond residents"
- #4: Change to #5. Add instead as #4, "Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors."
- #5: Change from #4, "Build public-private partnerships..." (okay as written)

Prior to informing the Mayor and City Council, LaBrunerie suggested waiting until other branding is developed. ***Skillingstead offered to process the goals as a draft and e-mail to all.*** Once finalized, then a motion would be made in a RAC meeting, followed with a letter informing the Mayor and City Council, etc.

Commissioners will discuss core values next month. LaBrunerie will generate ideas of core values and e-mail all so Commissioners can be thinking of ideas for discussion.

2. Web Site Revamp

Skillingstead reported that the volunteer web designer, Savita Krishnamoorthy, is now working on revamping the RAC web site. She is endeavoring to identify a graphic for the mission statement, which would be at the top of every page.

Commissioners will e-mail the designer between now and Saturday/Sunday with their feedback on typestyle preference. Skillingstead will meet with her on Monday.

Skillingstead also asked Commissioners for art icon ideas that would be representative of the community. The designer would develop these icons to be in place of the text; the user would only need to click on the icon to go to the projects, etc. These icons could be of the City's existing art pieces used as actual images or modifications of these.

Schmidt suggested that several of the arts awards could potentially be used as the icons. *Skillingstead will take the designer to view the awards to see if they could be used.*

B. Continuing Business – Task List

Tarapolsi asked Commissioners whether or not they would like her to continue managing the Task List. Commissioners agreed it was very helpful for keeping track of tasks to be done and those that were completed. *Tarapolsi will continue updating the list; she will keep sending the list, but not the reminders.*

VI. Visual Arts

A. Project(s) Status

1. Reservoir Park Art Dedication

Dedication date is October 16. *LaBrunerie, Teller, and Houghton will attend (and possibly Schmidt).*

2. Artist Selection Panel

Houghton has volunteered to represent RAC on the selection panels for Perrigo Community Park (10/22/03) and Grass Lawn (10/29/03) artist selections. *She will confirm her 10/22/03 availability in the near future. Schmidt offered to be a back up, should Houghton not be available on that date.*

3. Seattle Art Museum Artwork Transfer

Schmidt reported that the Alexander Lieberman artwork proved to be too big and too heavy to display at the Public Safety Building. Therefore, the City was not able to locate the piece for SAM during its renovation period.

Schmidt also noted:

- SAM artwork in the Redmond Library looks good; lighting will be installed soon.
- Friends of the Library voted to recommend buying the sculpture, *Fish Boy*, for the library. A different library site was chosen to display the piece.

4. Art Outside the Box

Schmidt will meet tomorrow with Stephen Edwards, artist, who would like to be the artist for the Art Outside the Box project and to work with the art students. Schmidt will have more information at the next Visual Arts Committee meeting.

5. Next Visual Arts Committee Meeting

October 20, 7:00 p.m., is the next Visual Arts Committee meeting. ***Skillingstead will book a room at ORSCC.***

6. Not Hollywood

Teller reported he requested film lists from the following distributors:

- Scarecrow Video
- Outrider Pictures
- Seventh Art Releases
- IndeVision Films

He is awaiting responses from his requests, and is sending emails daily to the above companies to generate a response.

LaBrunerie reported that Microsoft is hosting an International Film Festival. She will e-mail the announcement to Teller. ***LaBrunerie and Teller will meet to discuss the Microsoft event.***

7. ORSCC Gallery Opening

Schmidt commended volunteer, Arriba Stature, for excellence in organizing the ORSCC Gallery exhibit and opening. Mayor Ives was impressed with the gallery and would like to see it promoted further.

Houghton asked staff to put together a written list of those names to thank at future openings/dedications, before public speaking would occur at the event. ***Skillingstead will follow up with a list for future dedications.***

B. Funding Needs

None

C. Marketing

None

D. New Business

1. NE 83rd Street Public Art Project Opportunity

Joel Pfundt, Public Works Transportation, showed illustrations of the 83rd Street corridor redesign concept. The new design, with a promenade concept for sidewalks, would make 83rd Street more pedestrian friendly. The Transportation Department was directed by City Council to make 83rd Street safer, and especially to signalize the 161st and 83rd intersection by next year. Their concerns were with pedestrian safety, parking, and pedestrian access.

To make the corridor more pedestrian-friendly, the sidewalks and amenities could include artwork and items that users could enjoy. Pedestrian activity nodes would be located at intersections, mid-block curb bulbs, crosswalks, The Edge Skate Park, and Metro shelters. Activities would be accentuated at these wider sidewalk areas.

The concept of “wayfinding” with integrated art is being considered. The Planning Department would look at this theme/focus as a starting point to expand throughout the downtown. “Wayfinding” would be a way to identify the neighborhoods around town. KPG Architect, designer, is creative with art ideas e.g., benches, bicycle racks, etc.

There has been a recommendation by the Business Transportation Tax Committee to fund this phase of the project with \$750,000, pending City Council approval. Public Works currently has \$250,000, which would make a total of \$1 million to do this improvement phase now. The City has committed to 83rd Street improvements from 161st to 160th to be done by next year. The City is working with King County Metro and Sound Transit, which also have money to do improvements in Redmond. Also, there is discussion of doing Transportation Oriented Development on the Park and Ride site, i.e., housing on the site.

Teller asked about using crossover bridges and creative lighting. Pfundt answered bridges are not possible due to ADA requirements and expense; creative lighting has been designed by the architect.

Pfundt asked RAC to help in making public art part of the project. Commissioners voiced support. Pfundt invited a Commissioner to attend their meetings. He emphasized that money is needed to do the artwork; the more people involved, the more they can make it happen.

Pfundt asked to help in bringing in artists and funding. Skillingstead noted that 1-% for art is not applicable because it is a road project. Commissioners expressed they would like to be involved. ***Pfundt will contact Skillingstead and Schmidt, Visual Arts Committee chair, when there is a meeting they can attend.***

Houghton suggested the Teen Center might want to be involved in the new sign for The Edge Skate Park.

Pfundt noted that Planning Department has a Transportation Demand Management fund available for park benches, etc., along a trail. ***Skillingstead will contact Sarah Stiteler, Planning, to inquire about funds for benches.***

2. Arab Festival – Commissioner Tarapolsi

Tarapolsi distributed Arab Festival postcards and invited all to attend the event October 18-19, at the Seattle Center.

3. Art Censorship Research Project (Letter to the Mayor)

Schmidt referenced a letter sent to Mayor Ives from a professor of art history at McAllister College. They are doing a research project on art censorship. Commissioners chose not to respond. Skillingstead will return the letter to the Mayor.

E. Notes From September Visual Arts Committee Meeting – Chair Schmidt

The meeting was conducted on-line and the following was decided:

- Schmidt will remain Chair of the Visual Arts Committee.
- The complete list of visual arts projects needs prioritizing.
- Houghton has agreed to help with the Art Outside the Box project.
- Art Outside the Box project needs:
 - To establish guidelines for project
 - To establish paint requirements
 - To be assessed for priority rating (to decide if and when it will be worked on)
- The next meeting will be October 20, 7:00 p.m.; priority of projects will be the main topic

VII. Arts Education

A. Project(s) Status

McAlinden was absent from this meeting; report deferred to next month.

B. Funding Needs

None

C. Marketing

None

D. New Business

1. Bellevue Philharmonic Music in the Schools Program Funding

Tarapolsi reported that in talking with representatives from the Bellevue Philharmonic, it was determined they would not be able to fulfill several requirements of the Arts Education Grant. However, since the project was for music in the schools, she suggested that funding from the arts education budget might be another option.

2. Brainstorming Next Steps

Deferred to next meeting

E. Youth Advocate Report

Rollofson asked if Commissioners knew of anyone who would be willing to act as a mentor for a high school senior's art project. ***Schmidt volunteered to be a mentor for Rollofson's contact. Rollofson will give Schmidt's name to the student to e-mail/call.***

LaBrunerie informed Rollofson that there would be a new emphasis on marketing the Winter Performance Series, which would mean increased marketing activity at the school.

Skillingstead reported that the *Circus Contraption* performance would be held at the Redmond High School theatre, which has 524 seats.

F. Notes From September Arts Education Committee Meeting – Chair McAlinden

Report from Arts Education Committee meeting - September 16, 2003:

- Welcomed new member, Dawn Mertens, and welcomed back others from summer break.
- Committee reviewed past achievements to set the stage for considering the next project.
- Discussion held about the best ways to support the K-6 completed arts curriculum, now in the hands of the school district.
- Discussion held regarding the role of art docent volunteers in supporting the teachers. The committee did not reach a decision about hosting a training for docents this fall. This would be revisited at the next meeting.
- Next Arts Education Committee meeting: Monday October 13, at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Performing/Literary Arts

A. Project(s) Status

Sambamurti announced that there are four shows scheduled for the Winter Performance Series: *Maya Soleil*, *Alleyoop*, *Circus Contraption*, and *theater simple*.

Sambamurti reported that *Circus Contraption* would be performed at the new Redmond Performing Arts Center at Redmond High School. Because it is at this location, expenses have dramatically increased (rental, technician, and custodial fees). Consequently, Sambamurti proposed having the show pay for itself by marketing it as a premier event of the series and charging higher ticket prices. Commissioners discussed and agreed on the following:

	General admission	Students/Seniors
<i>Circus Contraption</i>		
Advance sales	\$10.00	\$6.00
At the door	\$12.00	\$8.00
<i>Other shows:</i>		
Advance Sales	\$7.00	\$4.00
At the door	\$9.00	\$6.00

Children under five years are free.

Motion for approval of the higher admission prices as listed above by:

Commissioner Teller

Second by: Commissioner Schmidt

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

B. Funding Needs

None

C. Marketing

Commissioners agreed to aggressively publicize the *Circus Contraption* show with advance ticket sales to private businesses, schools, etc. Skillingstead stated they could sell the tickets through Parks and Recreation at ORSCC. ***Sambamurti volunteered to contact businesses. She will draft a letter to businesses asking them to sponsor.*** Schmidt noted she has a contact at AT&T who would distribute advertising materials, brochures, etc. ***Skillingstead will check into getting tickets printed through Ticketcraft, since tickets must be numbered. She will also rewrite copy for Focus and the Recreation brochure.***

LaBrunerie will meet with Sambamurti and Teller (and possibly Schmidt) regarding a strategy for marketing, advertising, selling the tickets, and making sure the poster has a call to action. She will e-mail the date and time of the meeting.

D. New Business

1. Arts Trek Video

LaBrunerie reported she is working with Linda Teller, an intern with RCTV, on the Arts Trek Video.

E. Staff Reports

1. Handouts

- Inventory list of the City's art collection
 - Skillingstead is working with Houghton to update the inventory with separate lists for student, loaned, and integrated artwork.
- The current budget report

2. Grant Funding Research – Volunteer Needed

Skillingstead reported that Karen Brandon, City grant writer, is asking for a Commissioner volunteer to assist in finding funding resources/grants for RAC's existing projects. *Houghton may be able to volunteer; she will contact Brandon.*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Schmidt

Second by: Commissioner Teller

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:

November 13, 2003

Old Redmond School House Community Center

7:00 p.m.

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: October 9, 2003

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Pamela Rembold		
Doe Stahr		